



EFF CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL HOUSEHOLDS HAVE SET-TOP-BOXES FOR DIGITAL MIGRATION

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

The EFF calls on government to ensure that all households have set-top-boxes before they switch off the analogue signal, thereby excluding millions of poor South Africans from free-to-air Digital Terrestrial Television.

As a matter of principle, it is government's responsibility to ensure that all our people, in particular the poor, transmit into DTT. Television services are part of the modern Information age. In fact, it is a part of a constitutional right to access to information, particular as it relates to government actions, decisions and reports.

An estimate of over 8 million, mainly poor South Africans will be left out of the Free-To-Air television service should the analogue signal be immediately switched off. This move, which seeks to free the broadband spectrum, must not come at the expense of the poor.

We call on government to also use its SASSA database as a legitimate basis to distribute set-top-boxes. It is not fair to simply rely on applications which have already proven not to work.

The digital revolution is a great human leap forward, but it must always have a human face. Let all people partake in the benefits of digital signals.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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